



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



AFES/MMM

JUL 10 2008

Mr. Chuck Robinson
Area Manager
PGS Onshore, Inc.
3201 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Robinson:

This responds to your March 20, 2008, request for Letters of Authorization (LOA) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for the incidental take of polar bears and Pacific walrus and the intentional take of polar bears. Petroleum Geo-Services Onshore Inc. (PGS) has been contracted by Eni to conduct an exploratory three-dimensional (3D) marine seismic survey in State of Alaska waters of the Beaufort Sea utilizing an ocean bottom cable/transition zone (OBC/TZ) technique during the 2008 open-water season. The proposed start date for the first portion of this project is mid July, 2008. The 2008 PGS Beaufort Sea 3D Seismic Survey Area has 2 components:

1. a 3D, ocean bottom Cable (OBC) seismic survey in state waters north of the Oliktok Point area during the open-water season (July through September 2008); where timing will be divided into two parts. The area outside the barrier islands will be surveyed between July 15 and August 5, 2008, and areas inside the barrier islands will be surveyed between August 5 to September 15, 2008.
2. use of a field camp on the mainland coast, or a field camp run by PGS to be located on an existing gravel pad at Oliktok Point or use of existing Eni facilities near Oliktok Point.

Enclosed is an LOA (08-12) that would allow PGS to take small numbers of polar bears and walruses incidental to the 3-D seismic survey to be conducted starting during the open-water period of 2008. If any changes develop in your project during this season, such as activities or location, the Marine Mammals Management Office (MMM) must be notified prior to the planned operation. That will allow us to evaluate the activity and, if appropriate, amend the LOA.

Polar bear conservation has benefited from monitoring programs associated with the Incidental Take Program since 1993. Monitoring serves to assess the effect of industrial activities on polar bears by evaluating trends and effects of bear encounter rates, take frequency, as well as the location and timing of encounters. Polar bears may be encountered along the coast, and

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 

especially on the barrier islands, such as Pingok, Leavitt, Spy, and Thetis islands. PGS field camps, vessels, and personnel can limit encounters of polar bears by eliminating or reducing accessibility to attractants, being observant of approaching animals, such as through the use of polar bear guards, and breaking off interactions, if practicable, by allowing the animals to continue their travel. Service biologists are available for consultation if questions or concerns arise regarding polar bears during the project period at the phone numbers listed below and noted in your interaction plan.

This letter, through a separate authorization, also grants PGS authority to take polar bears by harassment (deterrence activities) for the protection of both human life and polar bears while conducting activities in polar bear habitat. This authorization allows only the harassment or deterrence of polar bears and does not authorize lethal take of a polar bear. This authorization is issued specifically to PGS employees who are responsible for ensuring that trained and qualified personnel are assigned the task to harass (deter) polar bears. All polar bear harassment events are to be reported to MMM within 24 hours. Observation forms can be faxed or emailed to our office. This authorization is effective for the period date of issuance to October 31, 2008. Intentional take is authorized under sections 101(a)(4)(A), 109(h), and 112(c) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). A final report of all encounters and hazing events is due 60 days from the expiration of this authorization (by December 31, 2008).

Any situations where the application of deterrents involves a safety risk to personnel should be avoided. If a polar bear interaction escalates into a life threatening situation, Section 101(c) of the MMPA allows, without specific authorization, the take (including lethal take) of a polar bear if such taking is imminently necessary in self-defense or to save the life of a person in immediate danger, and such taking is reported to the MMM within 24 hours.

Furthermore, in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA), issuance of this LOA also fulfills the requirements for Tier 2 Consultation of the Programmatic Biological Opinion for the activities described herein. In the "Programmatic Biological Opinion for Polar Bears (*Ursus maritimus*) on Beaufort Sea Incidental Take Regulations" (June 2008; Tier 1 BO), the Service determined that the take anticipated as a result of the issuance of the Incidental Take Regulations is not likely to result in jeopardy to the polar bear, in accordance with section 7 of the ESA. In order for the Tier 2 BO to be consistent with the "no jeopardy" conclusion of the Tier 1 BO and for an ESA incidental take statement (ITS) to be issued, the following need to occur: (1) the proposed activity must provide the required information, as described in the §18.124 of the Regulations, (2) the LOA includes any mitigation measures that the MMM believes appropriate for the specific activity and location, as described in §18.128 of the Incidental Take Regulations, and (3) the MMM must determine that the incidental take for the specific activity will be consistent with the negligible impact finding for the total take allowed under the Incidental Take Regulations.

A reasonable and prudent measure and implementing terms and conditions were included for the MMM in the Tier 1 BO and have been incorporated into the LOA process. Issuance of this ITS


Mr. Chuck Robinson

3

with the LOA completes ESA requirements for authorization of incidental take of the polar bear. Compliance with the terms and conditions of this LOA ensures that the LOA holder is also in compliance with the ESA.

The incidental authorization is issued in accordance with our regulations listed at 71 FR 43926, dated August 2, 2006. Please review these regulations. Should you have any further questions contact Mr. Craig Perham of our Marine Mammals Management Office at (907) 786-3800 or 786-3810.

Sincerely,


Acting Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Michelle Turner, ASRC Energy Services
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office (FWFO)
USFWS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)



IN REPLY REFER TO:
AFES/MMM

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



ISSUED: July 3, 2008
EXPIRES: October 31, 2008

LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION (08-12)

Petroleum Geo-Services Onshore Inc. (PGS) has been contracted by Eni to conduct an exploratory three-dimensional (3D) marine seismic survey in State of Alaska waters of the Beaufort Sea utilizing an ocean bottom cable/transition zone (OBC/TZ) technique during the 2008 open-water season. The proposed start date for the first portion of this project is mid July, 2008. The 2008 PGS Beaufort Sea 3D Seismic Survey Area has 2 components:

1. a 3D, ocean bottom Cable (OBC) seismic survey in state waters north of the Oliktok Point area during the open-water season (July through September 2008); where timing will be divided into two parts. The area outside the barrier islands will be surveyed by August 5, 2008, and areas inside the barrier islands will be surveyed between August 5 to September 15, 2008.
2. use of a field camp on the mainland coast, either a field camp run by PGS to be located on an existing gravel pad at Oliktok Point or use of existing Eni facilities near Oliktok Point.

Petroleum Geo-Services Onshore Inc. (PGS) is hereby authorized to take small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to activities occurring during the 2008 open-water season. On behalf of Eni, PGS will conduct a 3-D marine seismic survey in State of Alaska waters of the Beaufort Sea utilizing an ocean bottom cable/transition zone (OBC/TZ) technique. This project is scheduled for the period of mid July 2008 through September 2008. These activities are discussed in detail in the, "Beaufort Sea Seismic Survey Fact Sheet North Slope, Alaska, Summer 2008, February 2008."

This authorization and the required conditions below include contractors of PGS performing PGS-approved work under the scope of operations to be conducted. Authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. PGS Operations Managers, or their designates, must be fully aware, understand, and capable of implementing the conditions of this authorization.



2. This Authorization is valid only for activities (including support vessels) associated with PGS's 2008 3D OBC Seismic Survey Activities, as specified in PGS's March 20, 2008 application.
3. Intentional take is prohibited under this authorization.
4. PGS must cooperate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), and other designated Federal, State, or local agencies to monitor the impacts of oil and gas exploration activities on Pacific walrus and polar bears.
5. If any changes develop in your project during the 2008 open-water season, such as activities or location, notify the Marine Mammals Management Office prior to the planned operation.
6. The PGS polar bear interaction plan (Bear and Pacific Walrus Awareness and Interaction Plan, Proposed Seismic Survey Beaufort Sea, Alaska, Summer 2008) is approved and all provisions must be complied with unless specifically noted otherwise in this Letter of Authorization. A copy of this polar bear interaction plan must be available on site for all personnel.
7. The species authorized for takings, by Level B Harassment only, are: Pacific walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus divergens*), and polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*). The taking of any walrus or polar bear in a manner prohibited under this authorization must be reported within 24 hours of the taking to the Service Incidental Take Coordinator in Anchorage Alaska (907-786-3800), or their designee, as specified in condition 10(d).
8. The holder of this Authorization is required to cooperate with the Service and any other Federal, state or local agency monitoring the impacts of the activity on walruses and polar bears. The holder must notify the Service Incidental Take Coordinator at least 24 hours prior to the start of collecting seismic data.
9. At the discretion of the Service, the operator will allow the Service to place an observer on site (vessels and aircraft) to monitor the impacts of the activity on Pacific walruses and polar bears.
10. Prohibitions:
 - (a) The taking, by incidental Level B harassment only, is limited to the species listed under condition 4 above. The taking by Level A harassment, serious injury, or death of these species is prohibited and may result in the modification, suspension or revocation of this Authorization.
 - (b) The taking of any walrus or polar bear whenever the required marine mammal mitigation and monitoring measures (conditions 11 and 12) have not been fully implemented as required by this Authorization, is prohibited.

11. Mitigation:

(a) *General Mitigation:*

The holder of this Authorization is required to:

- (i) (A) Avoid concentrations or groups of walrus and polar bears hauled out onto land or ice by all vessels under the direction of PGS. Operators of support vessels should, at all time, conduct their activities at the maximum distance possible from known or observed concentrations of animals. Under no circumstances, other than an emergency, should vessels operate within 800 meters (½ mile) of walrus or polar bears observed on land or ice.
- (ii) Take every precaution to avoid harassment of walrus or polar bears in water when a vessel is operated near these animals. Maintain an 800 meter (½ mile) exclusion zone, when practicable. Vessels must reduce speed when walrus or polar bears are observed in water and vessels capable of steering around these animals must do so. Vessels may not be operated in such a way as to separate members of a group of walrus or polar bears from other members of the group. Vessels should avoid multiple changes in direction and speed when walrus or polar bears are present.
- (iii) Operate in full compliance with the terms identified in the approved document identified in Condition 6.
- (iv) Restriction of walrus or polar bear movements, by any means, in sea or on land, is prohibited. Exclusion zones will be enforced until animals have left the area.

(b) *Seismic Vessel Mitigation:*

The holder of this Authorization is required to:

- (i) Reduce the volume of the airgun array during vessel turns while running seismic lines.
- (ii) To the extent practical, whenever a marine mammal is detected outside the exclusion zone radius, and based on its position and motion relative to the ship track is likely to enter the safety radius, an alternative ship speed or track will be calculated and implemented.

(iii) Exclusion and Monitoring-Safety Zones:

(A) Establish and monitor with trained observers an exclusion zone (safety radius) for walrus surrounding the seismic airgun array where the received level would be 180 dB.

(B) Establish and monitor with trained observers an exclusion zone (safety radius) for polar bear surrounding the seismic airgun array where the received level would be 190 dB.

(iv) Power-down/Shut-down Procedures:

(A) During seismic operations, if a bear or a walrus is sighted in the PGS-established exclusion zone of 800m (PGS polar bear/walrus interaction plan, Page 7), operations will power down/shut-down until the animal moves out of the exclusion zone or established safety radii, whichever is greater.

(B) Immediately shut-down the seismic airgun array and/or other acoustic sources, whenever any walrus are sighted approaching close to or within the area delineated by the established safety radii for pinnipeds of 180 dB isopleth, or polar bear

are sighted approaching close to or within the area delineated by the 190 dB isopleth established under condition 11(b)(iii).

(C) Do not proceed with ramping up the seismic airgun array unless the safety zones described in condition 11(b)(iii) are visible and no walruses and polar bears are detected within the appropriate safety zones; or until 15 minutes after there has been no further visual detection of the animal(s) within the safety zone and the trained marine mammal observer on duty is confident that no walruses and polar bears remain within the appropriate safety zone, provided the entire safety zone was visible for at least 30 minutes.

(D) Emergency shut-down. If observations are made or credible reports are received that one or more walruses and polar bears are within the area of the seismic survey are in an injured or mortal state, or are indicating acute distress due to seismic noise, the seismic airgun array will be immediately shut down and the Service Incidental Take Coordinator contacted. The airgun array will not be restarted until review and approval has been given by either the Service Incidental Take Coordinator or their designee.

(v) Ramp-up Procedures:

(A) Prior to commencing ramp-up described in condition 11 (b)(v)(C) the safety radius for polar bears and walruses has to be visible and observed by a marine mammal observer if: a complete shut-down has occurred; or at any time electrical power to the airgun array is discontinued for a period of 10 minutes or more; and the marine mammal observer watch has been suspended;

(B) If the safety radii are not completely visible for at least 30 minutes prior to ramp-up in either daylight or nighttime, ramp up can commence following established procedures.

(C) If the complete 180 dB safety range is visible and no walruses and polar bears are observed while undertaking pre-ramp-up monitoring under conditions 11(b)(v)(A) and (B), ramp-up airgun arrays slowly over a period of at least 15 minutes starting with the smallest airgun in the array and then adding additional guns in sequence, until the full array is firing: (1) At the commencement of seismic operations, and (2), anytime after the airgun array has been powered down for more than 10 minutes.

(vi) Poor Visibility Conditions

(A) During any nighttime operations, if the entire 180-dB safety radius is visible using vessel lights and/or night vision devices, then start of a ramp-up procedure after a complete shutdown of the airgun array may occur following a 30-min period of observation without sighting marine mammals in the safety zone.

(B) If during foggy conditions or darkness, the full 180-dB safety zone is not visible, the airguns cannot commence a ramp-up procedure from a full shutdown.

(C) If one or more airguns have been operational before nightfall or before the onset of foggy conditions, they can remain operational throughout the night or foggy conditions. In this case, ramp-up procedures can be initiated, even though the entire safety radius may not be visible, on the assumption that marine mammals will be alerted by the sounds from the single airgun and have moved away.

12. Monitoring.

(a) *Seismic Vessel Monitoring:*

(i) The holder of this Authorization must have biologically-trained, marine mammal observers (MMOs) to be onboard the seismic source vessels.

(ii) MMOs will monitor to:

(A) Ensure that no walruses and polar bears enter the appropriate safety zones established under condition 11(b)(iii), whenever the seismic array is on.

(B) Record marine mammal activity as described in condition 12(a)(v) below. A observer must be on watch during ramp ups and the 30 minutes prior to full ramp ups, and for as large a fraction of the other operating hours as possible. At all other times, one observer must be on active watch whenever the seismic airgun array is operating during all daytime airgun operations, during any nighttime power-ups of the airguns and at night, whenever that day's monitoring resulted in one or more power-downs due to marine mammal presence.

(iii) The vessel crews also must be instructed to keep watch for walruses and polar bears at all times. If any are sighted, the bridge watch-stander must immediately notify the MMO on-watch.

(iv) Observations by the MMOs on marine mammal presence and activity will begin a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the estimated time that the seismic source is to be turned on and/or ramped-up.

(v) For each walrus or polar bear sighting, MMOs will record the following:

(A) Species, group size, age/size/sex categories (if determinable), behavioral activity, heading (if consistent), bearing and distance from seismic vessel, sighting cue, and apparent reaction of animals seen near the seismic vessel and/or its airgun array.

(B) Time, location, heading, speed, and activity of the vessel, along with sea state, ice cover, visibility, cloud cover and sun glare at: (1) any time a marine mammal is sighted, (2) at the start and end of each watch, and (3) during a watch (whenever there is a change in one or more variable)

(C) The identification of all vessels that are visible within 5 km of the seismic vessel whenever a marine mammal is sighted, and the time observed, bearing, distance, heading, speed and activity of the other vessel(s).

(vi) All MMOs must be provided with and use appropriate night-vision devices, Big Eyes, and reticulated and/or laser range finding binoculars.

(vii) The operator of the seismic vessel must maintain a log of seismic activity noting the date and time of all changes in seismic activity (e.g. ramp up, power down, shut down, changes in the number of active airguns or the volume of airgun arrays) and any corresponding changes in monitoring radii.

(b) *Non-seismic Vessel Monitoring:*

(i) A designated crew member on a non-seismic vessel will immediately contact the seismic survey ship if walruses and polar bears are sighted within the 800m exclusion zone of the source vessels.

(ii) For each walrus or polar bear sighting, a designated crew member will either record or communicate to the source vessel MMO the following:

(A) Species, group size, age/size/sex categories (if determinable), behavioral activity, heading (if consistent), bearing and distance from vessel, sighting cue, and apparent reaction of animals seen near the vessel.

(B) Time, location, heading, speed, and activity of the vessel, along with sea state, visibility, cloud cover and sun glare at any time a walrus or polar bear is sighted.

(C) The identification of all vessels that are visible within 5 km of the vessel whenever a marine mammal is sighted, and the time observed, bearing, distance, heading, speed and activity of the other vessel(s).

13. Reporting:

(a) *Marine mammal observer training manual and data collection protocols.* Prior to the initiation of seismic operations, the operator must provide the Service with:

- (i) A description and documentation of the MMO training program;
- (ii) a copy of the MMO field manual and/or operating procedures; and,
- (iii) a key to MMO data codes, including definitions and descriptions of all data fields.

(b) *Sound source verification report.* The results of field source verification and the distances to the various sound radii are to be reported to the Service within 120 hours of completing the measurements.

(c) *Weekly summary of walrus and polar bear sightings.* The operator must tabulate and report all walrus and polar bear sightings recorded by the MMOs from all project vessels to the Service on a weekly basis. For each walrus or polar bear sighting include:

- (i) a unique sighting identification number;
- (ii) species, group size, age/size/sex categories, and substrate (on ice, in water, both);
- (iii) date, time and location (for pre-lease seismic surveys, specific location information may be withheld until the results of the next lease sale are announced);
- (iv) environmental conditions including: water depth (meters), sea state (Beaufort scale), visibility 1 (#km), visibility 2 (light/dark), visibility 3 (glare: none, little, moderate, severe), ice condition 1 (estimated % ice cover in vicinity of sighting), ice condition 2 (estimated distance (km) to pack ice);
- (v) estimated range (meters) at first sighting, estimated range (meters) at closest approach;
- (vi) the behavior of animals sighted (if determinable);
- (vii) Whether animals appeared to react to the presence of the ship (yes, no), if yes, describe the reaction of the animal(s);
- (viii) vessel activity at time of sighting including: vessel name; vessel speed (knots); seismic activity code; action taken by operator in response to sighting? (yes, no) If yes, specify (e.g. powerdown, shutdown); and,
- (ix) any MMO comments or notes

(d) *Notification of incident report.* The operator must report:

(A) any incidental lethal take or injury of a polar bear or walrus; and,

(B) observations of walruses or polar bears within the prescribed safety zones (180/190 dB radii around seismic arrays, or 0.5 mile marine buffer areas) to the Service within 24 hours. Reports should include all information specified under 10(c) as well as a full written description of the encounter and any actions taken by the operator.

(e) *Post season seismic monitoring report:* A draft report will be submitted to the Service within 90 days after the end of the seismic survey program in the Chukchi Sea. The report will describe in detail:

(i) the operations that were conducted;

(ii) the results of the acoustical measurements to verify the safety radii;

(iii) the methods, results, and interpretation pertaining to all monitoring tasks;

(iv) the results of the 2008 shipboard marine mammal monitoring;

(v) a summary of the dates and locations of seismic operations, including summaries of power downs, shut downs, and ramp up delays;

(vi) marine mammal sightings (species, numbers, dates, times and locations; age/size/gender, environmental correlates, activities, associated seismic survey activities);

(vii) estimates of the amount and nature of potential take (exposure) of walruses and polar bears (by species) by harassment or in other ways to industry sounds;

(viii) an analysis of the effects of seismic operations (e.g., on sighting rates, sighting distances, behaviors, movement patterns of walruses and polar bears);

(ix) provide an analysis of factors influencing detectability of walruses and polar bears; and,

(x) provide summaries on communications with hunters and potential effects on subsistence uses

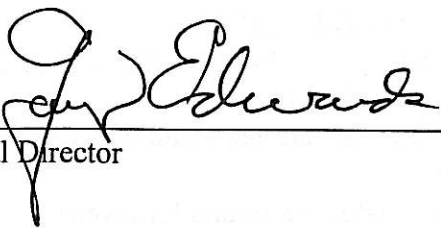
The draft report will be subject to review and comment by the Service. Any recommendations made by the Service must be addressed in the final report prior to acceptance by the Service. The draft report will be considered the final report for this activity under this Authorization if the Service has not provided comments and recommendations within 90 days of receipt of the draft report.

(f) *Seismic monitoring data:* An electronic copy of all seismic monitoring data described in condition 12(a)(v) and (vii) will be submitted to the Service within 90 days after the end of the seismic survey program.

14. Activities related to the monitoring described in this Authorization do not require a separate scientific research permit issued under section 104 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

15. A copy of this Authorization and the Service-approved Polar Bear Interaction Plan must be in the possession of the operator of all vessels and aircraft engaging in the activity operating under the authority of this Letter of Authorization.

16. Per the "Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Beaufort Sea Incidental Take Regulations for Polar Bear (June 2008)", your request also triggers the second of the two-tiered programmatic process. In order for incidental take of the polar bear to be exempted from the prohibitions of the ESA, the LOA also serves as an "Incidental Take Statement" (ITS), required under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). Issuance of the LOA/ITS fulfills the requirements for Tier 2 Consultation of the Programmatic Biological Opinion for the activities described in this letter.



Acting Regional Director

10 July 08

Date



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



AFES/MMM

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE, BY HARASSMENT, POLAR BEARS

ISSUED: July 3, 2008
EXPIRES: October 31, 2008

By Sections 101 (a)(4)(A), 109(h), and 112(c) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended Petroleum Geo-Services Onshore Inc. (PGS) is authorized to take, by harassment, polar bears during PGS's planned 3-D seismic survey in State of Alaska waters of the Beaufort Sea utilizing an ocean bottom cable/transition zone (OBC/TZ) technique. Activities are scheduled to begin mid July 2008. Activities include:

1. a 3D, ocean bottom Cable (OBC) seismic survey in state waters north of the Oliktok Point area during the open-water season (July through September 2008); where timing will be divided into two parts. The area outside the barrier islands will be surveyed by August 5, 2008 and areas inside the barrier islands will be surveyed between August 5 to September 15, 2008.
2. use of a field camp on the mainland coast, either a field camp run by PGS to be located on an existing gravel pad at Oliktok Point or use of existing Eni facilities near Oliktok Point.

This Authorization is valid from the date of issuance to October 31, 2008, unless terminated in writing.

Section 101(a)(4)(A) states that, "Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), the provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the use of measures:

- (i) by the owner of fishing gear or catch, or an employee or agent of such owner, to deter a marine mammal from damaging the gear or catch;



- (ii) by the owner of other private property, or an agent, bailee, or employee of such owner, to deter a marine mammal from damaging private property;
- (iii) by any person, to deter a marine mammal from endangering personal safety; or
- (iv) by a government employee, to deter a marine mammal from damaging public property, so long as such measures do not result in the death or serious injury of a marine mammal.

Section 109(h)(1) states that "nothing in this title (Conservation and Protection of Marine Mammals) shall prevent a Federal, State, or local government official or employee or a person designated under Section 112(c) from taking, in the course of his or her duties as an official, employee, or designee, a marine mammal in a humane manner (including euthanasia) if such taking is for:

- (A) the protection or welfare of the mammal,
- (B) the protection of the public health and welfare, or
- (C) the non-lethal removal of nuisance animals."

The purpose of authorizing taking by harassment, or deterrence, is to maintain human and bear safety and welfare in polar bear habitat. Authorizing Level B harassment take reduces the likelihood of death or injury of polar bears. This is accomplished by the following objectives:

1. Prevent bears from associating food with humans and facilities
2. "Train" bears to avoid people
3. Allow bears to use travel routes (natural and man-made) to move along the coast
4. Prevent bears from extended use of areas around facilities

Harassment authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. The PGS polar bear interaction plan (Bear and Pacific Walrus Awareness and Interaction Plan, Proposed Seismic Survey Beaufort Sea, Alaska, Summer 2008) is approved and all provisions, unless noted specifically, are incorporated into this Letter of Authorization by reference. A copy of the polar bear interaction plan must be available on site for all personnel.
2. PGS Operations Managers, or their designates, must be fully aware of, understand, and be capable of implementing the conditions of this authorization.
3. This authorization is valid only for those activities identified in the request for a Letter of Authorization dated March 20, 2008.
4. This authorization is restricted to harassment activities.

5. Authorized individuals are responsible for documenting and reporting to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office, (907) 786-3800, all instances involving harassment activities as soon as possible and not later than 24 hours after the occurrence.
6. This authorization is issued specifically to PGS who is responsible for ensuring that **trained and qualified** personnel are assigned the task to harass (deter) polar bears.
7. It is prohibited to harass or deter a polar bear from an area, such as the barrier islands, for the purpose of conducting or continuing activities for this seismic project.
8. When applicable, activities will not operate nor pass within 1 mile of known polar bear dens, and all observed dens will be reported to the Marine Mammals Management Office, Fish and Wildlife Service immediately. Should occupied dens be identified within one mile of activities, work in the immediate area will cease and Service will be contacted for guidance. The Service will evaluate these instances on a case-by-case basis to determine the appropriate action. Potential responses may range from cessation or modification of work to conducting additional monitoring.
9. Basic polar bear monitoring and reporting requirements follow. PGS will:
 - cooperate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor the impacts of PGS activities on polar bears;
 - designate a qualified individual or individuals to observe, record, and report the sightings of polar bears;
 - report sightings of polar bears or polar bear sign (using the polar bear observation form) on PGS facilities within 24 hours of initial observation by FAX (907 786-3816) or email (craig_perham@fws.gov);
 - submit a report to the Marine Mammals Management Office within 60 days after the expiration of the authorization.
10. Deterrence techniques must not cause the injury or death of a bear. Types of hazing techniques may include, but are not limited to:
 - Bear Monitors
 - Air horns
 - Electric fences
 - Chemical repellents
 - Acoustic recordings
 - Vehicles
 - Projectiles: cracker shells, bean bags, rubber bullets, screamers, etc.

11. Prior to conducting a harassment activity, operators must:

- Reduce/eliminate attractants
- Secure site; notify supervisor; move personnel to safety
- Ensure bear has escape route(s)
- Ensure communication with all personnel

12. When conducting a harassment activity, operators must:

- Choose the method that will have the least effect on the bear and increase the intensity of the method or use additional methods only if necessary
- Shout at the bear before using projectile (avoidance conditioning)
- Move bear in proper direction; continue with minimally necessary deterrents to receive desired result

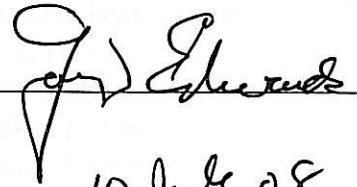
13. After a harassment event has occurred, operators must:

- Monitor bear movement (to ensure no return)
- Notify supervisor and personnel to resume work
- Fill out report to be sent to the Service as required under condition 4 (within 24 hours)

14. This Authorization is valid for the period indicated on this authorization, unless extended or terminated in writing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office.

Signed: _____

Date: _____


10 July 08